

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 8, and ending at page 11, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 5 is a diagram illustrating one example of the fixation of a tray to a support ring by a bolt 56 and nut 54. Fig. 5A is a partial cross section, Fig. 5B a diagram of Fig. 5A as viewed from above (the direction of the space embracing a bolt), and Fig. 5C a diagram of Fig. 5A as viewed from below (the direction of the space embracing a nut). In Fig. 5, a tray 51 is fixed by bolting to a support ring 52 through a washer 55. The support ring 52 is fixed to an inner wall 53 of a distillation column at joint part 50. Since the construction under discussion does not use a clamp as compared with the conventional manner, it gives virtually no point for inducing stagnation of a liquid in the part for fixing the tray to the support ring during the course of purification and consequently makes it possible to prevent an easily polymerizable substance from polymerization. The members used in this construction, therefore, are preferred to have the corners on the upper faces of the peripheral parts thereof cut and rounded and have the widths thereof decreased as much as the strength permits in order that the retention time of a liquid therein may be shortened to the fullest possible extent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3, and ending at page 12, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, in the conventional construction, since the gap between the bolt opening and the bolt is closed with a nut and washer, a liquid is liable to stagnate on the peripheries of the bolt to polymerize. It has been found that by elongating the bolt opening formed in both support ring and tray, as illustrated in Fig. 5, and minimizing the nut and the washer within the range in which they retain strength enough for fixing, it is possible to form liquid passing openings 58 in the bolt-nut part and allow effective prevention of the polymerization. The liquid passing openings mentioned above, similarly to the liquid passing openings formed in the joint parts between the support ring and the inner wall of the distillation column, preferably have a size such that the equivalent diameter is properly in the range of 3 – 50 mm, preferably in the range of 5 - 30 mm, and more preferably in the range of 8 - 25 mm.

Generally, one tray is formed of a plurality of plates and these component plates are fixed mutually or to such a tray-supporting member as support ring or support beam with fixing part 57. The liquid passing openings mentioned above may be equipped in these fixing parts.